Price stability of agricultural commodities under plantation and spices sector

4505. SHRI N.K. PREMA CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government consider to implement any schemes to ensure the stability of prices of agricultural commodities under plantation and spices sector in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission have recommended to discontinue the financial assistance to rubber cultivations in Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government have taken any decision on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) and (b) For the benefit of the growers of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco Government has approved setting up of a Price Stabilization Fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore, which covers Kerala State also.

(c) to (e) The Rubber Plantation Development Scheme is yet to be considered for implementation during the Tenth Five-Year Plan.

PSF for plantation crops growers

4506. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved setting up of Price Stabilization Fund for plantation crops in order to safeguard the interests of the growers;

(b) if so, the details of the Fund;

(c) the total corpus of the Fund; and

(d) the number of growers who are going to be covered under the scheme in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the setting up of a Price Stabilization Fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore for the benefit of the growers of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco.